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INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: EUROPE: TURKEY, ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY; SCO
PAULO

"Democracy In Islam"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (8/30) editorialized: "Are democracy and Islamism compatible? Turkey is trying to demonstrate that they are, but the nation is facing a hard challenge as a result of former Prime Minister Abdullah G|l's election for president. G|l is a moderate Muslim, but every religious inclination in Turkey is sufficient to raise the secular establishment's distrust.... The military was not pleased [with G|l's election], but opted for not overreacting. An adventure outside of established institutional boundaries could jeopardize once and for all Turkey's chances of becoming an EU member.... For Turkey to become the first full democracy in the Islamic world, it is necessary that the state remains secular even under an Islamic party, and without military tutelage."
White